Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc.

RALEIGH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
RARS
WORLDWIDE FRIENDSHIP

CLUB CALL: W4DW REPEATER: W4DW/R 146.04/64

FEBRUARY 1984 ISSUE 167

LEADING EDGE

SHERMAN STARNES
W4TZU

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Amateurs around the world continue to increase the activity on AMSAT-OSCAR 10. It isn't really crowded yet, but QRM is not unheard of. The mode B transponder is still turned off for almost four hours centered on the time of perigee (the low point in the orbit). This was necessary because the satellite was out of sunlight (eclipsed) for part of the orbit. The eclipse period is now over, however, and restoration to full time operation is expected soon. I have heard all continents except Antartica and KL7GNG in Anchorage has worked more than 52 countries in just a few weeks. Except for the equipment required, OSCAR 10 is becoming like another HF band.

Operating times for transponders aboard the Russian satellites have been curtailed to reduce the spacecraft operating temperatures. RS-5 and RS-7 are scheduled for operation on Saturday and Sunday, UTC. RS-6 is scheduled for Tuesday and RS-8 for Thursday. I have found the transponders to be off when scheduled off but not always on when scheduled on.

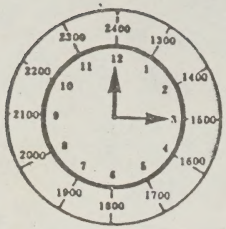
I was most pleasantly surprised in early January when I called CQ on RS-7 and had K4HF come back to me. I look forward to hearing more from Chuck through the satellites and wish him well in his efforts. I understand that W4GKC is readying a satellite station as well and I hope to hear Robbie on soon.

The January 9 issue of Amateur Satellite Report contained a list of the calls copied from the tapes of W5LFL in the Space Shuttle. Unfortunately, I could not identify any on the list as local amateurs. Although you and I are not on the list, by all other accounts, the ham in space operation was a resounding success. All the favorable publicity will surely pave the way for other hams who venture into space to operate space mobile. The next opportunity for an amateur to operate from space will come in December when Dr. Tony England, W0ORE, will be on board a Shuttle flight.

The Space Shuttle concept includes a provision for small experimenters to participate in the Shuttle program by building their experiments into a "Get-away Special" cannister, known more affectionately as a "GASCAN." Later this year a high school in Alabama will send up a "GASCAN" with several experiments including one concerned with alloying metals and another to study the germination of radish seeds in zero gravity. The

(continued inside)

EXECUTIVE EDITOR: FRANK C. WEISS, KY4W PRODUCTION EDITOR: ANN M. BRADLEY, WA4APK



MINUTES OF THE MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was held on January 4, 1984, at the First Presbyterian Church, S. Salisbury Street. President Bruce Eggers, WA9NEW, called the meeting to order and welcomed the members. The roster was signed by 32 members.

Bruce announced some upcoming program possibilities, such as: Thompson CSF, a mobile phone company from France; a presentation by the Carolina Contest Group which is already in operation with 3 towers; a MARS panel discussion etc.

The March meeting is our annual Awards Banquet. All members are urged to attend.

Bruce asked members to please fill out the back page of the December issue of the newsletter. Only 2 members have responded so far.

The Advisory Board has taken action and asked 3 members to follow the volunteer examiners program and get RARS into the program as soon as possible. QST has had extensive articles about this recently and all members should keep themselves informed.

Our Hamfest fliers are ready. Bruce urged members planning to attend hamfests before ours in April to please take along fliers for distribution.

Pete Thacher, N4HQZ, made a report on the progress of the Hamfest. He still needs members to sign-up for committees. All must participate to make it a success.

Bruce acknowledged the article in the current newsletter by Bob Johnson, AA4L, concerning the training program. He suggested we establish some motivation and publicity for this program for the Fall. Plans must be made before the N C State catalog goes to press in July.

Bruce discussed the new repeater part authorized by members to be purchased by the club. The price is more than the authorization. This problem will be discussed further at the next Advisory Board Meeting.

Tom Swanson, N4IZE, has investigated the possibility of club members operating a station in commemoration of North Carolina's 400th anniversary celebration. This would be from the ship replica, Elizabeth II. The Department of Cultural Resources is interested and Bruce will further investigate this possibility.

The newsletter has been reorganized by Executive Editor, Ann Bradley, WA4APK. She now has a committee to help her. A name is needed for the newsletter and any suggestions would be appreciated.

Chuck Littlewood, K4HF, reminded members that dues for 1984 are due. Anyone paying before the end of February will be eligible for a prize in a special drawing at the banquet.

Chuck also reminded members that Section Manager ballots from ARRL are in the mail. He hopes all will give this some thought. The ballots must reach ARRL by February 17th.

The program for the evening was a film called Laser Light. The door prize was won by Murray Hake, W6NVZ.

After coffee, doughnuts and fellowship, the meeting was adjourned.

Marty Silver NY4H
Secretary, RARS

LEADING EDGE
(continued)

progress and results of the experiments will be telemetered to Earth on 435 mHz. using equipment designed and supplied by the Marshall Amateur Radio Club from Marshall Spaceflight Center. This will be the first "GAS-CAN" to radiate r.f. energy.

HAPPY VALENTINES DAY
FROM
THE NEWSLETTER STAFF

BERT'S BEAT

WITH
BERT BAILEY, W4FMN

RUN FOR THE ROSES **********
Got another mission for the RARS gang. This one we've handled for the past two years and have been complimented on the performance. So--RARS volunteer types(the givers that is) stand by for participation. It will be on Sunday, 19 Feb at the same place around Millbrook Road,Spring Forest Road, and fini a la Departure Drive. Have not made calls yet but I can already say who can be counted upon,---such stalwarts as Charley the WB4DCM, Joe the WA4ENZ, ole Bill WB4CCA with his bowling buddy Charles WA4CLT,and others.Too bad RARS XYLs are not into running,--every YL and XYL gets a pretty rose just for finishing.This time, a post-race party is being held at the North Raleigh Hilton--a swank QTH if you have not noted--from 1800-2000 hours in the Bowties Lounge. Beer and setups at Happy Hour prices complete with heavy hors d'oeuvres.All runners and race workers(tha's us) are invited. Maybe we can order with handy-talkies and avoid the rush///

W4FMN FADING AWAY??????????????
After nine to ten years of being EC of Wake County,rousting scores of eager RARS members out to Sport Car Rallyes, Wake County Emergency Exercises of all types,hospital emergencies including the transfer of Rex to its new QTH,beating all other Tarheel clubs and cities in SET exercises(read the vintage QST reports),writing the RARS Newsletters almost singlehandedly (ole Dave W4YDY--the heck with his new call),establishing BOTH the RARS 2-Meter and 10-Meter Nets (begging for NCSs and blossoming some new ones out) and increasing net times from 3 nites to every nite on Two,taking a back seat ONLY to a few like K4MC in handling heavy traffic, setting up the Mall traffic booth with ole reliable Herb third Friday after third Friday for months and years,like 10, when many ,many times it was "just we two", and Christmases became veritable nightmares since,altho making BPL nearly each year,there was mucho de traffic to be moved after the ball was over at the mall(there was no 88 2M Net at those times, and ole Bob the MC and I moved the lion's share of it(with much help from traffic giver-types,giver to amateur radio that is,e.g.Ken K4GCN,Tom WB4WII, ole Boit W4OFO) and being FD Chairman on the FD when for the FIRST time since RARS started this FD business, RARS had NO down time because of generators not operating(as I recall, I returned one generator to a gracious lender--Gregory Poole that we did not even have to use), to omit the mention of providing the best quarters RARS has ever seen on any FD, ---a 60 foot trailer!---and all the time I was EC, I set up the first 2-year college amateur radio station in NC(WB4TOP,still going), brought into the ham world such outstanding as Stan Grady and Chuck Davis,who soon became one of NC's prima CWers,--well, I just decided that I did lots of leading but not an excessive numbers of fellow RARS types were following, and I stepped down to let some other fine hams have a crack at the action.So ----being an old soldier, and mighty doggone proud of my days in front-line combat as well as my "days in the sunshine of RARS"--one might say I have faded away. But,you know what, I really feel that's a heck of a lot better than motormouths who never learn to idle. By the way, this old GI still partidpates in ham doings(WB4TOP worked W5LFL), as well as keeping alive the Sons of Confederate Veterans in the Old North State(ex-Raleigh Camp Cmdr, Division Cmdr for the past 6 years, Army of Northern Va for 2 years) and, grab this, ole fadeaway 62 year old FMN finished 59th out of 176 bright, young paratroopers in the All American Marathon at good ole Fort Bragg on 19 Nov past. Ole soldier-hams like me and W4DW never die(in marathons) they just fade away(still far ahead of the multitude of civilians and never-have-beens).AMEN ES 73s##########

HAMFEST FACS

by
Pete Thacher
N4HQZ

Well Fest Fans, there are only 75 days left until RARS Hamfest '84. Lets review this event. First its a RARS event with all proceeds going to RARS for things like Field Day, 64 repeater, newsletter, awards, remberances for silent keys and anything else that the members may decide they desire. Thats what it does for the club. Second, what does it take to do it?. Well a bunch of planning and a bunch of help. The more members that support the hamfest, the more time all members will have to enjoy the event. What is the plan. Well on the weekend before the hamfest, you can help string PA lines. On the day of the event you can help sell tickets, direct traffic, sell at the club table, set up PA systems or generators. If your a late riser you can even help as late as 6 pm in returning Crabtree to its normal state. Each RARS member should commit his or her body or mind or both to the Hamfest for at least 60 minutes and commit now so the hamfest committees can do the planning necessary to pull off a excellent hamfest. The Following heros have already let themselves be counted. See the ham with the asterisk or see Pete N4HQZ or Jim WA4AOO and be counted.

TICKET SALES -	Roger Moates*,
CLEAN UP -	Corbett Blackman*
	Doc Cobb, Lynn Pendleton
	Joe Homovec
MAINTABLE-	Chuck Littlewood
	Jesse Hodges
	Dave Mishoe
PA+POWER-	Tom Swanson
CLUB TABLE-	Bob Corns
	J Callery
	Dave Mishoe
	Ward Atherton
TALK IN -	Ward Atherton*
	Chas Swindell
	Lee Rogers
	Joe Homovec
VENDOR RELATIONS -	Jeff WA1WXL

'NEW LINE

by Bruce Eggers, WA9NEW
President, RARS

So having looked at our glorious past and hopefully having dispelled the notion that RARS is little more than the efforts of just a few, where are we and where are we going?

Is RARS destined to wither on the vine? Will it continue to exist but as little more than hundreds of other clubs all over the country which meet once a month, manage a meager Field Day operation, yet claim to be the spirit, intent, basis and purpose of the Amateur Radio Service?

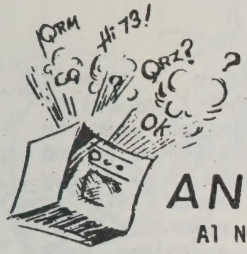
Or will RARS continue to grow? Regain lost glory? Not only just meet but exceed and indeed define the concept of a Special Service Club?

The role of leadership notwithstanding, I repeat a thought from last month's column: The whole is rarely greater than the sum of the parts. It's only a matter of identifying all of the parts.

How about you? Are you a 'part' of RARS or just an 'attendee'? Are you waiting for someone to ask you or are you on the frontline, the first to volunteer, to suggest a new direction, to take an active role?

Hamfest '84 is just a few weeks away. Have you signed up? Do you know who's Field Day Chairman for this year? Will you be there? Are we all set for Novice classes at the McKimmon Center? How would you like to host the Christmas Party this year? Have you come up with a fresh idea? Volunteered to head up a new effort?

Don't wait for an engraved invitation, RARS is waiting for YOU!



SIGNALS AND NOISE

Al Nowakowski, W4VP

It's been some time since we looked in the DXer's desk drawer so here we go again.

Right here under the QSL notebook is the W6GO/K6HHD List, perhaps the most comprehensive DX QSL managers list available. Published monthly, it keeps up to date on even the most recent operations, and supplies many addresses not available from the callbooks. A real bargain at $15/year or $1.75/issue, every active DXer needs to subscribe or buy several issues every year. Write Electronics Enterprises, Box 700, Rio Linda, Calif., 95673 for more info.

Stuck in the back of the logbook is a thin plastic device called The DX Edge. It is a simple calculator for determining sunrise and sunset times anywhere in the world. It consists of a world map with various overlays which graphically shows the gray line (the transition line from night to day) at any point in the world. Actually, it's harder to describe it than to use it. The gray line is important because of the enhanced propagation that occurs along it, especially on the low bands. It's a very handy device although a little expensive at $14.95 PPD. Check for the ads in CQ or QST.

Also stuck in the logbook are several sheets of paper. Each page has a DX station's call at the top and a list of days, times, and frequencies when the station was heard or reported active in the DX bulletins. The purpose of the list is to determine the DX station's operating habits and the most favorable band to work him. If you're one of the fortunate with a KW and 6 element monobanders, you can probably work the DX any time you can hear him. Those of us with more modest equipment have to use a little effort and develop a plan. These lists are a key element of such plans since they collect all the available information in one neat package, and make analysis much easier. Give it a try sometime.

In Memory of -- Someone Else

We were saddened this month to learn of the death of one of the Society's most valuable members, Someone Else. The vacancy left by Someone's death will be difficult to fill. Else did more than a normal person's share of the work. Whenever leadership was mentioned, this person was looked to for guidance and results: "Let Someone Else work with that group."

Whenever there was committee work to be done, project to work on, or a meeting to attend, one name was at the top of everyone's list, "Let Someone Else do it." Someone Else was a wonderful person, but one person can only do so much and unfortunately everyone expected too much of Someone Else. Now Someone Else is gone! Who will do att the things Someone Else did? When you are asked to get involved in your Society do so. Remember, we can't depend on Someone Else any more.

(Courtesy ISA Signal Sources from Old Virginia Hams Newletter.)

If you can not get WWV on the low band frequencies you can get the same information by calling the toll free number in Boulder, CO.

1-800-957-9999

Laying in the drawer under the log is a copy of the W1AW operating schedule. On Fridays a DX bulletin replaces the normal League bulletins. Actually, the best time to copy the bulletin is Thursday evening since the schedule is in UTC. The bulletin, prepared by several New England DXers, is an excellent way to get up to the minute reports on DX activity, and it's free.

There are still a few items in the drawer, but we'll save those for another time.

LANGIANAPPE

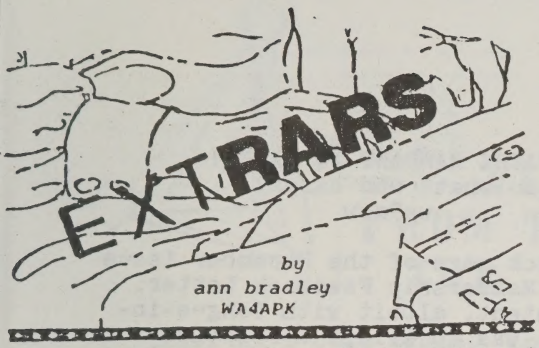
Pete Thacher

N4HQ 'na Z

Happy Quiet Zebra

*Here I am again. End of year 1983 was a little hectic so I took a vacation from my editorial duties. Real story is that I ran out of ideas but I think I got my wind back. 1983 was my initiation year to Amateur Radio and I did all the things a new ham does, like put up and take down(sometimes not by design) several hundred feet of wire, buy useless goodies at hamfests, read QST,CQ,73 cover to cover 1970 to date, write letters to the editors and even had a few memorable QSOs. I even attempted this column with a little humor, sometimes very little. I shall return with that format when my imagination offers the material, but I also want to cover a few areas of hamming that, at least I feel need covering in my attempts to improve the service. You don't have to agree with me and if you don't and have valid counterpoints, well the newsletter can always make space, I'll even give you mine and take another vacation.

*Think this month a good topic might be growth as a new year begins. Whether you like it or not our city is growing and will continue to grow. Now I like growth but I don't like overcrowding. If one wanted to be crowded the Northeast corridor is a days drive away. I'm a native southerner with a Yankee heritage and I won't argue the merits or demerits of either side of the Mason-Dixon line. In Amateur Radio there is no line. I can, to a certain degree, isolate my life from the negative results of overcrowding on the ground, but I can't do that on Amateur radio frequencies, or can I? I am really concerned about the push being made by ARRL to show ARS to the masses. Is it necessary? Who benefits and how? I have seen articles in QST describing the age distribution of Amateurs showing a mean age around 50 with a skew to the older side. The resulting conclusion drawn is that unless we get a bunch of people on the younger side, in time Amateur Radio will disappear, so ARRL suggests a Madison Ave publicity campaign to recruit new hams. Sorry, but I disagree. Point - there are now some 450,000 call in the US callbook and it gets bigger, heavier and more expensive each year. Point - where does it say new hams have to be under 30, I hear many hams that are over 50 and liscensed only a few years. Point - Our frequencies are overcrowded now with only a small portion of the ham population on HF. Point - Ever try 2 meters around a large city like NYC? So who benefits if the ARS grows by lets say a net 10% annually. Equipment manufacturers of course, certainly not the public if QRM also goes up 10%, congestion breeds rudeness. Just compare our street traffic courtesy to what it was 2,5,10 years ago! Think of ham allocations like taxicabs in New York City or seats on the NY Stock Exchange. There is only so much room so the number allowed in the room is limited. There is room for a new one only when an old one leaves or you build a bigger room. A little harsh, maybe, but lets not rush headlong into a growth effort without looking very carefully at the potential dangers. Now you may not now believe me, but I am in favor of, and will, help any non-ham become a ham. Not because I subscribe to the ".. if no growth then lose all.." philosophy but because the hobby can offer enjoyment to those who have an interest and desire to pursue the hobby. <u>What makes Amateur radio unique is the unique portion of the population that become Amateurs.</u> Remember what happened when a truly non-unique segment was given radios on 11 meters? The sheer numbers generated such economies of scale and profits that national TV time was used to entice even more overcrowding on the airwaves. ARRL and hams overwhelmingly fought against no-code for fear of, lets face it, overpopulation on 144, and now we are to hold demonstrations, etc to promote growth! How about help all those who seek to become an Amateur and during your Ham life replace yourself. Quality may come from competition in some things, but not in fast food hamburgers and not in Amateur Radio, at least so say I.



Know of a club who needs a program? Contact Audrey WB4ZSM Publicity Chairperson - she'd be happy to arrange it. Ham Radio is an interesting subject to the general public and these public appearances are a big plus in the RARS PR department.

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Welcome home to world traveler Diane, WB4INM According to Jim's version, she took a wrong turn in Tokyo and ended up in London. The postcard I received sez — Tokyo, Hong Kong, Bankok Rangoon, Mandalay Singapore, Colembo, Kandy Kathmandey Delhi, Agra, Jaipur, Bombay & London - quite a detour, I'd say..

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Now I've heard everything - Walt Short, N4SW tells of attending a wedding at the Richmond Hamfest. Seems the couple met on CW and finally said the . -.. — at — what else, a Hamfest. Well, why not? Amatuer Radio has been the media of bringing people together for some time — after the ceremony instead of a fast take-off under a shower of rice, this couple spent the afternoon checking out the bargins at the Richmond Hamfest.

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Don't fail to look for the Bradley's Red Heart atop the tower - it's our Valentine to everyone - that is, if the weather lets us get the Xmas star down and make room for the heart. We're still arguing about whose turn it is to climb the tower..

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I understand there will be a SIMULATED Nuclear Emergency in the Charlotte area next month. Of course, Wake County ARES will be involved. Don't have all the details but BE PREPARED !!!!!

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Hope you're ready to pick the Hamfest Committee of your choice. The hamfest Chairmen tell me the time has come to take the Roster and assign duties for those who have not already signed up — you know, this is "everyone's" Hamfest — we can no longer depend on someone else". (see article elsewhere).

RARS VOLUNTEER EXAMINING PROGRAM

The Volunteer Examining Program (VEP) is rapidly developing and will soon be upon us. This program is perhaps the single most important new potential activity that RARS can involve itself for the forseeable future. If RARS is to become involved in a timely and efficient manner, and is not going to abrogate its place in the VEP to others, it will have to, as an initiative, put together a plan and start such a program.

The plan that will be put together will bound the problem, will define the resources needed, and will allow RARS to determine whether it has a place in the VEP.

If RARS does develop a plan, which it decides to impelment, it will ultimately have to be made consistant and compatible with FCC and Volunteer Examination Coordinator requirements and policies.

The VEP will initially handle Technician and General Class license examinations only. Ultimately it will also include Advance and Extra Class license exams. It would probably be desirable to include, at this time, Novice Class license examinations in the program.

The VEP for RARS will not be a trivial undertaking.

Norm Plaks, KN4G

HAPPY

VALENTINES

DAY

—FROM THE EDITOR—

You are reading the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society Newsletter. "RARS News" is a nickname. Our publication is "nameless."

Our cover sheets will soon be reprinted and we'd like them to sport a suitable name across the masthead. Other clubs use "Electron," "Ground Wave," "Smoke Test." Can we come up with something catchy like that? Or shall we go with something more sophisticated like "The Salisbury Street Journal," or "The Amateur Tribune," or "The RARS News and Disturber" ? ?

Waht's your opinion? The Newsletter Committee is racking their collective brains. Give us some help! Give me your suggestions to present to the committee at our next meeting. The new cover sheets must be ready for the April issue--the Hamfest issue. The current supply will be depleted next month. I must have your suggestions by February 15. If your idea is used, RARS will pick up the tab for your 1984 membership which includes--a full years subscription to the NEW "————" published by the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society Inc.

C'mon now put your clever little minds to work. Our Newsletter needs a name!

Send ideas to: Ann Bradley Editor
5207 Denise Drive
Raleigh, NC 27606
Home, 851-2437
Office, 733-9223

APATHY RAMPANT IN RARS !
(So what? Who cares?)
wa9new

The back page of the December issue was a Membership Feedback Letter. The intent, albeit with tongue-in-cheek, was to elicit a response from the membership. What is it YOU are interested in? What is it YOU would like to see in YOUR club? Where do YOU think RARS is and where should we be going?

You guessed it! If there had been an adequate response during the ensuing month, this article would not appear in this issue, two months later! YOU have one more chance. Dig out the December issue, check off a few blocks, and bring it to the January meeting or you're stuck with what you get.

(If you'd like to guess how many replies I got, fill in the blank below and turn the sheet over!)

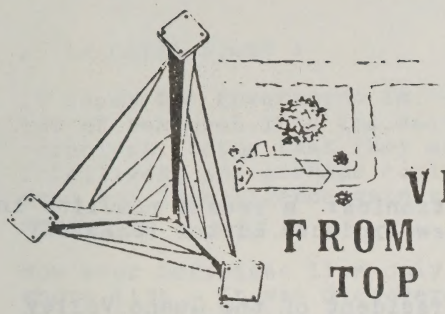
MY GUESS _____

Ah Ha! Fooled you! There actually was one member who took the time to reply. ONE! And that, an officer and regular attendee of the Advisory Board meetings! So now aren't you ashamed for guessing zero?

DX HOUNDS MUST READ THIS---
Those of you who use the ARRL outgoing QSL bureau will find some countries do not have a QSL Bureau. QSLs for these countries will remain at ARRL Headquarters; they will not be mailed out or returned to you. Handle these cards yourself.

The countries in question (courtesy of New England Report) are as follows:

A51	A6	A71	BV2	BY	C53	C9	D6B	HZ1	J5
S9	ST	T2	T3	TJ	TL	TR	TT	TZ	V3
VP2E	VP2K	VP5	VR6	XT	XU	XV	XW	YA	YI
YJ	ZA	ZD9	ZK2	ZM7	IS	3C	3V	3X	4W
5H3	5X	70	9N						



VIEW FROM THE TOP

Brrrr-it's cold again. Looks like the antenna work is slowing down again. Just in time for 'ole Whatsher-face, Ann, WA4APK to take down the Xmas star from the tower(well,I put it up-it's her turn) so she & I can get the Valentine Heart wired & back up(with some luck, maybe I can con her into both jobs-Ha!!).

I've been having trouble w/the wire antennas around the house-it seems that the 40 &80 both gave up & broke. I guess they won't last forever, but I was hoping they would make it til Springtime.

Jim Adderholt, KI4DH, had 70 ft. of tower up with a 2 meter beam on it, & 2 of the O.M.G. size beams on the ground. With the help of Bill Hane (ham-to-be) on the tower, and a good ground crew headed by Jim Peeler, WA4YOM, both beams went up in the approved fashion--well almost --seems that Jim KI4DH had one of the dullest drill bits on record-either end gave the same results. A trip to one of his neighbors took care of that. The job only took 6½ hours (my aching feet). Another thing to put on the check list-SHARP bits. An interesting sidelight-while the antennas were going up from the front yard over the roof, Jim's wife was having a "bunch of the girls" over for a Cosmetic party. Don't know how their party went, but we all got some strange looks as they went in. Didn't find any makeup on the rope, so I guess all was well.

Art Stratemeyer, NW4B (he with the antenna farm), Ann & I went over his "farm" in the plane while he took pictures--never heard so much flak about one little window being open (temperature about 25 degrees). I found out we were a little low on altitude when Art said,"Jim, can you raise the wing a little so I can get the antenna in the picture too?" Picky, picky, picky..

AWARDS BANQUET

March 7 is RARS' regular meeting night. Traditionally the March meeting is dedicated to the Annual Awards Banquet. This is the meeting each year when RARS recognizes members who have been most contributive to the success of the club's endeavors and honors the club's outgoing officers. We reflect on last year and "gear up" for the new one just beginning. It s a celebration of a succesful 1983 and a promise for 1984.

Again the Awards Banquet will be held at the Faculty Club on Hillsborough Street. Further details are still in progress but will be confirmed by the February meeting. Make your plans now to attend--call any officer to get your name on the list, or sign up at the meeting. We will need an accurate head count in advance. There will be good food, good fellowship, entertainment--the regular door prize drawing, a drawing for all members paid up by the end of the February meeting plus a special door prize for the XYLs. Come join the gang that looks so smug about what RARS has done and promise your support to what RARS will do.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

15th: Galileo of telescope fame
1564-1642----------Italy

20th: Boltzmann of the constant
1844-1906--------Austria

Frank Weiss, KY4W, donated his Gin Pole to the club when he headed South, and it will soon be available for use by club members, when the rope is procured and release forms typed up. this is a big plus for the people putting up a tower in the future, or making changes in one.

I would appreciate any information about aircraft trailing antennas from anyone with any experience with them. (Maybe DXCC the hard way.) 73 Jim

GENERIC INTEGRATED CIRCUITS

Generic Integrated Circuits to Revolutionize Electronics: a recent headline in the winter issue of GEARVAKf, by Mavis Thorlow, New Products Editor (GEARVAKf Committee on Consumer Affairs).

Lishnus Pass,Arizona -- Franklin Alan Frumpkin, President of the Guano Valley Electronics Co. has announced the world's first line of generic IC's, sure to be a boon to Anateurs and industrial manufacturers alike.

"The generic IC solves many problems," Frumpkin explained, "since it has no numbers on it, users do not have to stock many different types as they do now." "Since no base diagrams are published, expensive printing costs are avoided."

Generic IC's are expected to sell at some 50% less than current, highly-advertised, marked brands. Plans are to sell a 14 and a 24 pin IC. The user can tell the difference simply by counting the number of pins and dividing by two. An answer of "7" means the user has a 14 pin IC. Another answer probably means it's a 24 pin IC.

Frumpkin made electronic history several years ago when he marketed a line of generic things with wires coming out of them. Soon after that, food stores started selling generic canned corn and applesauce. Mr. Frumpkin had no connection with those items.

by N8JR de Yellow Thunder Smoke Signals

" T H E A M A T E U R S"

There's something about them you've got to admire.
They work for the love of the task, not for hire.
Everyone of them's blessed with the heart of a boy!
What's a job to the drudge unto them is a joy.
While we to our regular schedules are keeping,
The amateurs do without eating or sleeping.

They worry their wives -- since so short is the day --
They don't get to bed when they should but they stay,
Sending calls on the air; catching calls from afar,
And I think as I hear them how patient they are!
How much better we'd work here if only we knew it,
In that amateur spirit of wanting to do it!

Professionals weary sometimes and they shirk,
Since they're paid to perform, they look on it as work.
They begin with reluctance; they're glad when its done --
And they measure in money whatever they do.
But the Amateur never begrudges a minute,
He goes to the job for the joy that is in it.

So here's to the amateurs, brave hearted throng;
Though short be their waves, may their lives all be long;
Make up for the nights when they go without sleep;
And may we, in their spirit and deep understanding
Of work and its joy, keep our amateur standing!

-- Edgar A. Guest (from the Greater Cincinnati ARA, OH)

AN IMMORTAL STORY !

It seems the government is doing a lot of research into the value of porpoises, being that they are very intelligent and perhaps could be used for intelligence gathering purposes.

How ever porpoises live only a short time. It was discovered that by feeding them the eggs of a certain gull living in remote Africa that the porpoises would live forever.

They got permission from the local Department of Natural Resources in Africa and went in to get the gulls for their eggs. They came out of the preserve, gulls all in cages, when they came across a lion in the road. All efforts to get the lion to move were in vain, so they ran the lion over.

They were arrested for transporting gulls across the staid lion for immortal purposes.

YELLOW THUNDER

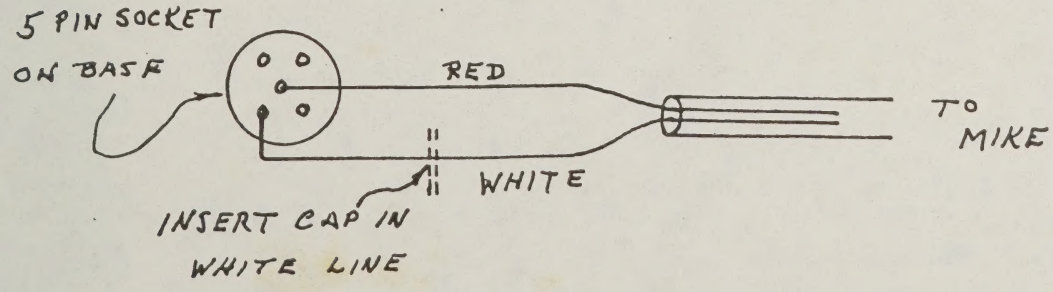
LAST CHANCE--to get in on the special drawing for a doorprize awarded to 1984 members who have paid their dues before the end of the February meeting. Don't get left out. Maybe you should put your check in the mail today just to be doubly sure. Send it to the Club box--P.O. Box 17124, Raleigh, NC 27609--Attention: Norm Plaks, Treas. Dues for Regular Membership are $15. Associate membership for Novices and unlicensed members is $5. Family members may join for $5 after the first full $15 membership. This prize will be awarded at the Annual Awards Banquet. Get your name in the pot and be there to claim your reward!

IMPROVING THE RESPONSE OF THE KENWOOD MC-50 MICROPHONES N8ADA

The Kenwood MC-50 mike has become well known for its excessive base response, which tends to make many operators sound like they are talking into a barrel. However, it is easy to modify the response and remove as much of the base as you wan The only change required is to place a capacitor in series with the mike element. The size of the capacitor determines the amount of base removed. The larger the capacitor, the more base goes thru.

John Grody, WB8TEK, and Vic Stauder, WA2KOO, have spent a lot of time experimenting with capacitor values. They recommend a .001 to start. This proved to be adequate in my case. You will notice some drop in output, but not enough to cause any problem. Just advance the mike gain a little.

Vic suggests bringing wires out to a switch to allow you to switch capacitors in and out in order to find the best value. John fine tuned his by putting several capacitors in series. We suggest you get the assistance of a patient friend to listen to you on the air in determining the best value for your particular mike and voice characteristics.



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RARS meets each first Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the West Community Room of Crabtree Valley Mall

First Presbyterian Church - 110 South Salisbury St.

Calendar

Jan 28-Feb 6 - ARRL Novice Roundup
See Jan QST pp.79

Feb. 1 - Regular RARS Meeting

Fed. 10 - RARS News Copy Deadline

Feb. 15 - RARS Advisory Board Meeting
7:30 pm NCSU Faculty Club
All Members Welcome!

Feb. 18, 19 - ARRL Int'l DX Cont.-CW

Feb. 19 - Elkin, NC Hamfest

Feb. 24-26 - CQ Worldwide 160m SSB Cont.

Mar. 7 - RARS Annual Awards Banquet

Mar. 17, 18 - Charlotte, NC Hamfest

April 15 - RARS 12th Annual Hamfest

May 12, 13 - ARRL Roanoke Div. LPM '84
Plng. Mtg, Charleston WVa